

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS:EVC

APPROVED BY P - MR. NEWSOM

HA - MR. JONES

EA - MRS. COLBERT

S/S:RCASTRODALE

-----003053 022327Z /65

O 022316Z MAY 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 112129

EXDIS FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY, PASS EA ASST SEC HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), ID

SUBJECT:VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP: MEETING WITH INDONESIAN
OPINION LEADERS

REF: JAKARTA 8394

1. INDONESIAN CHARGE ARIFIN MADE URGENT CALL MAY 2 ON
UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM TO DISCUSS VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.
(ARIFIN HAD ACCOMPANIED GEN. ALI MOERTOPO MAY 1 DURING
ROUTINE COURTESY CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY WHICH WILL BE
REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

2. ARIFIN STATED MOERTOPO (WHO LEFT WASHINGTON MORNING
MAY 2) HAD RECEIVED URGENT CALL FROM JAKARTA DURING NIGHT.

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ARAFIN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED SEE UNDER SECRETARY AND EXPRESS
CONCERN OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND GEN. PANGGABEAN OVER PRO-
POSED MEETING BY VIC: PR:SIDENT WITH "BUYUNG NASUTION AND
EX-PKI DETAINEES." ARIFIN NOTED THAT USG REQUEST WAS A
"SHOCK" SINCE AMBASSADOR ASHARI HAD REPORTED TO GOI THAT
HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD RECEIVE ONLY "MINIMAL" ATTENTION DURING
VISIT. (ACCORDING TO ARIFIN, AMBASSADOR ASHARI'S VIEW

BASED ON APPARENTLY CASUAL DINNER CONVERSATION WITH VICE PRESIDENT DURING APRIL 14 PRE-DEPARTURE EVENT AT INDO-NESEAN EMBASSY).

3. UNDER SECRETARY OUTLINED HIS BELIEF THERE HAD BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AS PROPOSED MEETING WAS (A) CONSISTENT WITH PATTERN OF FOREIGN TRIPS BY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLECTUAL SPECTRUM, (B) SIMILAR SESSION WOULD BE HELD IN MANILA WHERE TENSIONS ARE HIGHER, (C) INDONESIAN CONCURRENCE WOULD INDICATE IT WAS SECURE AND CONFIDENT OVER POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, AND (D) VICE PRESIDENT INTENDED HANDLE HUMAN RIGHTS IN QUIET AND UNSPECTACULAR MANNER. HE ALSO NOTED THAT PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS WERE DRAWN FROM A VARIETY OF FIELDS (NOT LIMITED TO HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS), THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY EX-PKI DETAINEES WERE INCLUDED, AND THAT BUYUNG NASUTION WAS WELL-KNOWN TO U.S. OFFICIALS AND -- IN THE UNDER SECRETARY'S EXPERIENCE -- PRESENTED HIS VIEWS RESPONSIBLY. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA MAINTAINING ITS REPUTATION OF BEING GENERALLY OPEN; AN IMAGE WHICH WOULD SUFFER IF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WERE TO BE VIEWED IN CONTRAST WITH THE PHILIPPINES. IN FACT, HE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE "DISAPPOINTED" WERE THE GOI TO TAKE A NEGATIVE POSITION. HE THUS HOPED PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND GEN. PANGGABEAN WOULD RECONSIDER AS "WE VERY MUCH WISH"

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TO HOLD THE MEETING WHICH WOULD ALSO BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR INDONESIA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IT APPEARS FROM DEPT PERSPECTIVE THAT APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING BY ASHARI HAS CONFUSED MATTERS. WE RECOMMEND AMB. MASTERS SEEK DEFUSE THE ISSUE. AT SAME TIME,

APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS SHOULD BE ALERTED TO POINTS CONTAINED PARA 3 -- PARTICULARLY POTENTIAL CONTRAST OF INDONESIA WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND OUR DISAPPOINTMENT IF THE MEETING CANNOT OCCUR.

5. DEPT HAS ALSO GIVEN ARIFIN ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF INVITEES BASED ON PREVIOUS EMB JAKARTA CABLE EXCHANGE (WE ASSUME OUR LIST IS BASICALLY SIMILAR TO THAT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO GOI BY EMB AS PER REFTTEL). VANCE

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NNN

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